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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5397  
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 4145  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2544  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1659  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1079  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2233  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 6365  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4551  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2575  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000811

SIPDIS

STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CHILE MEDIA REPORT - AUGUST 28

#### Lead Story

1. President Alvaro Uribe will confront at a UNASUR meeting today Hugo Chavez' criticism of Colombia's agreement with the United States (Conservative, influential newspaper-of-record, El Mercurio, 8/28).

#### U.S.-Related News

2. The U.S. Embassy in Santiago opened a condolence book for Senator Edward Kennedy. U.S. Ambassador Paul Simons said the Senator's was "a great legislator" who passed "many transcendental bills on issues as diverse as civil rights, education, health, social and economic welfare and making them a reality for the American people and that today are the testimony of his dedication of the service to his country." Simons also underscored Kennedy's role in the promotion of peace, democracy, and human rights worldwide, emphasizing his role in the peace agreement to end violence in Northern Ireland and a peaceful transition in South Africa (Afternoon, conservative La Segunda, 8/26).

3. Editorial: "Bernanke's Re-nomination": "Although Bernanke is a Republican who was appointed by George W. Bush... his reappointment reflects the healthy practice of de-politicizing the Central Bank's management" (La Segunda, 8/27).

#### Nuclear Energy

4. University Adolfo Ibanez' report on the eventual use of nuclear plants in Chile concludes that a mixed state-private ownership would be the best model to manage these plants in Chile. The GOC has requested several entities to draft reports on the requirements to build nuclear plants (El Mercurio, 8/28).

#### UNASUR

5. The president of Ecuador and pro tempore chair of UNASUR, Rafael Correa, said he would be willing to convoke a new meeting of UNASUR for heads of state to discuss the Chile-Bolivia 13-point agenda. The idea was suggested by Peru, whose President implied that Chile and Bolivia had a secret agreement to give La Paz access to the sea. Chilean Foreign Minister Mariano Fernandez said Chile "has no problem," with this, since Chile and Bolivia "have a bilateral relationship that the continent should applaud and that is the result of hard work by both parties" (Government-owned La Nacion and El Mercurio, 8/28).

¶6. Argentine daily "Pagina 12" ran an insert paid by Hugo Chavez against the U.S.-Colombia military agreement. "It is part of a political and military plan to eliminate UNASUR," wrote Chavez. In addition, President Rafael Correa, of Ecuador, warned that the agreement provides the United States with "the capability to act in all South America," and questioned Colombia's ability to restrict military activities in the bases. "Since when have Americans allowed anyone to control them?" asked Correa (El Mercurio, 8/28).

¶7. The Argentine press reports that Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemispheric Affairs Christopher McMullen met with Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana just before today's UNASUR summit to discuss the use that the United States will make of the military bases in Colombia (La Tercera, 8/28).

¶8. A group of Colombians are organizing via Facebook and Twitter a worldwide demonstration against Chavez on September 4, with the slogan, "No more Chavez." (La Segunda, 8/27).

#### Indigenous Affairs

¶9. Chile has only until September 15 to implement the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169). But foreseeing that Congress will run out of time, the Executive Office has decided to apply a "transitory regulation that will allow it to implement the convention and comply with the deadline (El Mercurio, 8/28).

#### Digital Television

¶10. Contrary to what the government has said all along, Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Rene Cortazar said the government has now decided to select a digital television standard before passing the new regulatory framework television law (El Mercurio, 8/28).

SIMONS